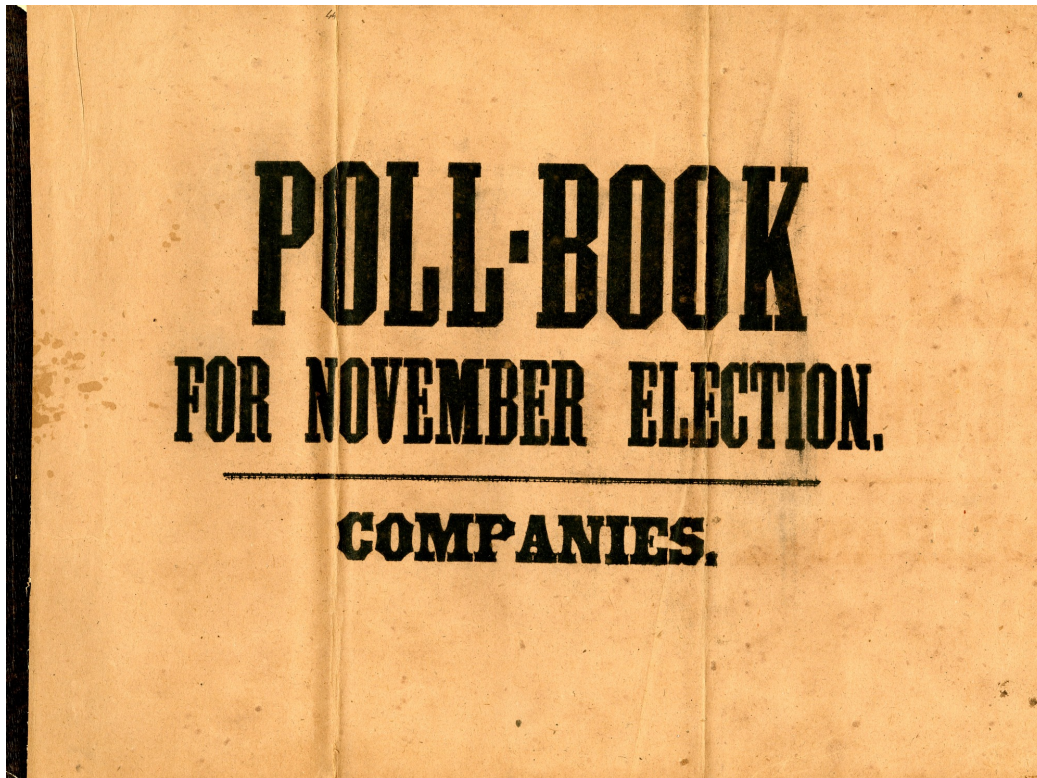


The Soldier Vote

The Civil War became the first conflict in which arrangements were made for deployed soldiers to vote. Who the Union soldiers would support—President Abraham Lincoln or their former commander, George McClellan—was critical in determining the outcome of the 1864 presidential election.



Poll book, Company C of the 150th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers
Gift of John M. Swanner

[View object record](#) [/collections/nmah_1591320](#)

During World War II, federal ballots were provided for service members who had not received their own state's absentee ballots.

Instructions
FOR VOTING PROCEDURE
OFFICIAL FEDERAL WAR BALLOT

BEFORE MAKING OUT BALLOT

1. Follow carefully each instruction on ballot and on official inner (smaller) and outer (larger) envelope.
2. Be sure no names have been filled in on ballot when furnished to you.

AFTER MAKING OUT BALLOT, TEAR ALONG PERFORATED LINE BELOW. SEE OTHER SIDE FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS

MAKING OUT BALLOT

3. Fill in ballot *in secret*.
4. Vote only for those offices for which there is an election in your State.
5. The law does not provide for your writing in the name of your choice for Vice President. (See instruction on ballot for voting for President.)
6. If there is more than one candidate of similar name for the same office, clearly identify your choice.
7. Include the name of your choice, for each office for which there is an election, *inside* the appropriate box on ballot.
8. Write or print *plainly* in CAPITAL LETTERS. Spell *correctly*.

Official Federal War Ballot

Instruction.—To vote, write in the name of the candidate of your choice for each office

Electors of President and Vice President of the United States

(A vote for President includes a vote for Vice President of the same party, and shall be deemed to be a vote for the candidates by name for Presidential and Vice Presidential electors of his party in your state)

Write in the name of your choice for President.

United States Senator (ONLY if a Senator is to be elected in your State)

Write in the name of your choice for Senator.

United States Senator, Unexpired Term (ONLY if a Senator is to be elected in your State for an unexpired term)

Write in the name of your choice for Senator.

Representative in Congress for Your District

Write in the name of your choice for Representative in Congress for your District.

Representative at Large in Congress (ONLY in the States entitled thereto)

(Vote for one or two as the case may be)

Write in the name or names of your choice for Representative at Large.

Official Federal War Ballot for Servicemen, 1944
Gift of Leo Seybold

[View object record </collections/nmah_527809>](#)



Vote While You're Still Around

Signs reminded soldiers in Korea to be mindful of enemy surveillance and to vote in the 1952 election.

Courtesy of Michael Rougier/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images

Hours & Admission

Open every day, except December 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Admission is free and no tickets are required.

Location & Contact

1300 Constitution Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20560 <<https://www.google.com/maps/place/smithsonian+national+museum+of+american+history/@38.8912835,-77.0322449,17z>>
Contact Information </about/contact>

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